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Madam Chair and Members of the Tourism Committee:

My name is Bob Wilson and as you hopefully know by now, I am the Executive Director of the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance. We are the statewide voice for all non-motorized trail users in the state, helping people build, connect and promote trails for a healthier and more prosperous Michigan. In short, our mission is to make trails happen!

We support legislation that promotes safe and reliable transportation on our state's highways and roads and value the importance of allowing motorists the ability to transport their bikes, and other appropriate gear also in a safe and reliable fashion.

We believe that the clarification provided in HB 5100 is an appropriate "technical change" that merely confirms that a trailer ball, rear mounted bicycle carrier or similar devices that are so popularly-used on the roads these days does not constitute "foreign material that obscures a vehicle registration plate." With not only the vast number of bikes and other recreation-based gear being transported on trailer hitch carriers, but personal mobility assistance devices being transported as well on these carriers, it would seem apparent that the law should reflect what appears to be the very-common practice.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify once again in your committee and again I applaud the work done by the committee in working to promote the trails, trail users and the natural resources that define our state!

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